342 352 THE CHARACTER of this house is of the simplest. The walls are whitewashed, the floors bare, and there is practically no furniture other than wooden beds and tables. The stoves are of porcelain, and wood or charcoal is used as fuel. The usual 323 practice is for potters to share a kiln with their neighbours. The one illustrated here was the property of this particular house and was placed in its yard (Plate IV, B).

[463] THE FIGURES given by the mayor show that there are 101 potters in Curtea de Argeș. We visited a good number and found that most of them live and work under conditions similar to those illustrated here. The potters for the most part occupy houses in one area of the town. A fine clay is found locally and can be had for nothing, but it must be collected by the potter himself. This clay he stores in his house (see upper plan on page 29).

THE POTS vary in design within a limited range. They are mostly of a buff colour, with the main part of the outside unglazed. The inside is glazed brown and the rim is usually covered with a bright green glaze, which makes the pots very attractive; some pots have splashes of green in parts or all over them. Most of the pots are marketed locally and can be bought at a low price. The pot is often made porous so that evaporation may keep the water cool. Pots are sent to other [438] places near Curtea, but are not sufficiently strong, we were informed, for long-distance transport.

● 341 NEW DEVELOPMENT in housing is making steady progress. Some houses are still being constructed on the traditional lines, half brick half timber, and the "eye" in the roof, which is common in the older houses, is not necessarily omitted in the modern roof; tiles, however, are replacing the shingle. The wooden balcony is disappearing in the larger type of house and is being replaced by a brick verandah. These brick verandahs are built with ornate columns, sometimes with elaborate capitals. The classical influence is, in fact, strong, for some houses have a pediment, and in one ambitious dwelling the capitals were gilded and the pediments contained gilded decorations. The simple wooden window frames are now little used, and are replaced by elaborate mullions. Wall decorations in elaborate stucco or stencil work and ornamental details on doors are a common feature of the new houses. Most of the new houses are detached and stand in their own gardens.

M. E. T.

1 [See pp. 286, HRAF pagination 32 -- Analyst]

RUMANIA EDI

The hipped roof is rather flat and made of corn straw or reed, about 40 centimeters thick. The frame is often of the collar type, horizontal beams supporting opposing rafters (figs. 60a, 64). Pan tiles appear only in isolated instances. In 1918 sheet iron was becoming popular because it was economical and saved time and effort. It was generally painted red-brown. Chimneys are usually inadequate or lacking (Jänecke, 1918: 11).

342 [335] [327]

Every house has an open veranda (prispa) on at least one side which may or may not have a low banister. It is slightly elevated from the ground and is protected by an extension of the eaves. While many Moldavian houses consist of only one room, even the smallest house in Wallachia has an anteroom (tinda). Here the main room is called odaia and has a special stove that is heated by a flue from the hearth in the anteroom. Often an additional odaia is added on the other side of the anteroom forming a symmetrical three-room house. Sometimes additional units are built onto the house on one or both of the narrow sides (figs. 57c, 58). The roof is extended over them in the form of a catalide (fig. 57a). These units are used for storage of agricultural tools, stables, summer kitchens, etc. If two are not sufficient, three or more units may be added. The prispa may be extended alongside the annex; or, when the annex protrudes in front of the house, the prispa may stop at the annex wall (fig. 57c). Occasionally a large house may have two parallel rows of rooms. However, this arrangement complicates the roof construction, which in this case is generally unsuccessful (Jänecke, 1918: 11-16).

[341] [354]

The interior is very simple. The anteroom serves for the storage of house implements; maize is kept in wooden boxes and placed along the wall, and there is also a small handmill for grinding maize. A large oven with a hearth in front of it is located at the wall opposite the door (figs. 57c, 58). The anteroom has no ceiling. When two odaias are present one is used for both living and sleeping quarters, while the other is used for the storage of blankets, carpets etc. It is somewhat of a guest-room.

[251] [353] [354]

In the Rumanian house special attention has been given to the hearth and stove, and the whole house can be said to have been built around the hearth. The hearth is the showpiece of the room. Arched over the hearth is a decorated mantel on which cooking utensils are placed. Niches on either side of the hearth are provided for the same purpose. Because of the inflammability of the straw roof, the chimney is of brick (these are the only bricks in the house and are made by the peasants themselves). The stoves in the living room are of unusual construction. The most spectacular of these are the columnar stoves which are not only beautiful but also effective. To the main part of the stove have been added graceful clay pipes which are either arranged symmetrically or placed on one side. The better ones resemble organs. The rest of the stove is also made of clay bricks set in mud mortar and covered with a layer of plaster of a lime and sand mixture. Decoration of clay or plaster may be added. These stoves are generally built by Gypsies.

354

RUMANIA ED I

342 Windows are generally double even in the simpler houses, one opening to the inside, the other to the outside. They are always barred and set in a wooden frame (Jänecke, 1918: 27-28).

342 531 The Rumanian house is noteworthy for its exterior decorations. Special attention and much imagination is given to the woodwork. Much art is evident in the pillars supporting the roof over the veranda (fig. 57d), lintels supporting the eaves, the railings of the veranda and the window and door frames. The corners of houses may have designs in low relief. Painted designs may be placed on the wall in great abundance (figs. 57a, 57b). Because of the lesser opportunity of embellishment through woodwork and because whitewashed walls lend themselves well to painting, painting of the exterior is characteristic of the plains. The Rumanian does not shy away from bright colors. Ultramarine is most popular, for it is [789] said to scare away evil spirits. Combinations of red, blue and [822] yellow are common, and dark green shades are also favored (Jänecke, 1918: 23).

342 [184] [341] The basic difference between the house of the lowlands and those of the mountain region is that the latter are of two-story construction (fig. 64a). Building materials in the mountains are stone and wood rather than wicker and mud. When houses are built on an incline a high stone foundation forms the ground floor (pivnita). This can be used for stables, storage rooms and also as a wine cellar. This form persists even when the terrain is flat. The higher house is appreciated for its better view, greater security and suitability for defense.

While the floor plan often consists of a row of rooms similar to that of the lowlands, a number of changes have taken place. The anteroom with its large hearth is generally left out (fig. 64b). This is due to the fact that the bricks that line the hearth are not available, and the wooden walls are more inflammable than the predominantly mud ones of the plains. Where the hearth is present [354] it is put into a special annex. Instead of the hearth an oven-stove (a combination stove and oven) is used, which permits the main room to be used as living room and sleeping room as well as a kitchen.

The two-room house predominates; due to the absence of the connecting anteroom, each room has a door to the veranda (čerdak) (fig. 66). Sometimes the veranda at the top of the stairway is expanded into a hall-like structure (foişor) (fig. 64a) covered by a hipped roof at right angles to the main roof. In summer most activities take place there.

The foundation is made of rocks or of large pebbles from the river. Walls are made of horizontal logs or boards which cross at the corners, each fitting into a notch in the other. A mud or lime plaster is never omitted, and to facilitate this plastering thin laths are nailed diagonally across the beams.

17: Thurnher E-4 (no date) 1956 EF6 Serbs EF6
Yugoslavia EF1
Albania EG1
Rumania ED1
Bulgaria EE1

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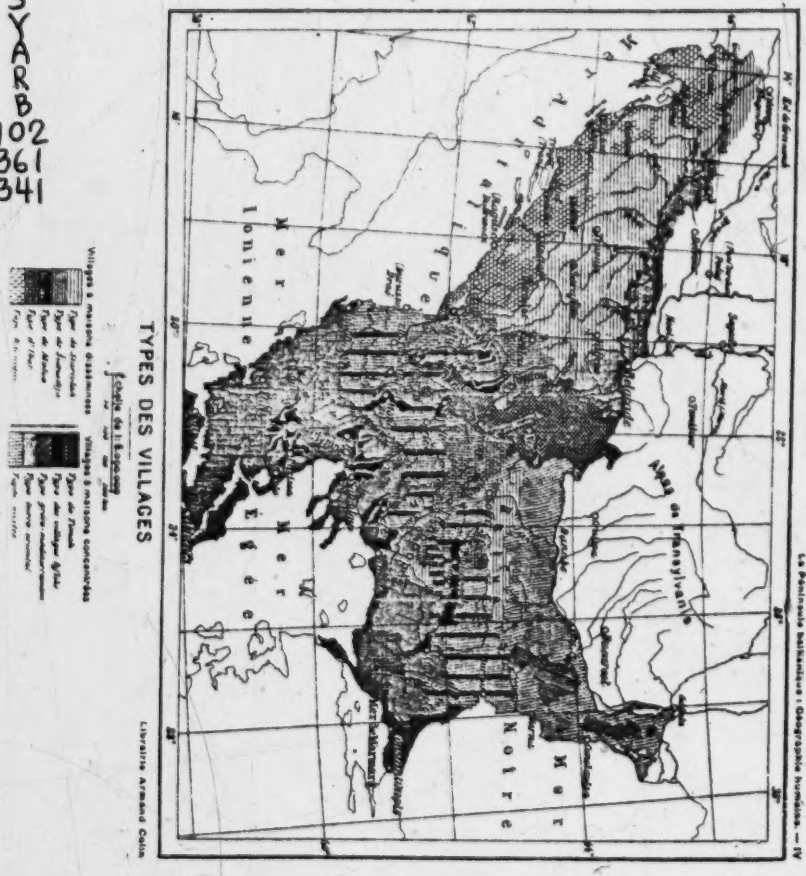

[P.86-R]